

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, JA, SOPN

SUBJECT: JAPANESE EDITORIAL REACTION TO FORD NOMINATION

1. MOST MAJOR TOKYO PAPERS DISCUSSED NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT FORD IN THEIR EDITORIAL COLUMNS AUGUST 20, TOKYO SHIMBUN WROTE THAT PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION WOULD PREVENT REPUBLICAN PARTY FROM FOLLOWING AN "EXTREME RIGHT-WING TENDENCY." AFTER CRITICIZING VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY STANDS OF GOVERNOR REAGAN, TOKYO SHIMBUN CONCLUDED THAT NOMINATION WAS SOURCE OF RELIEF TO "THE GOOD SENSE FACTION OF THE WORLD."

2. BOTH MAINICHI AND YOMIMUR NOTED US PUBLIC OPINION POLLS FAVORING GOVERNOR CARTER AND THE DISADVANTAGES REPUBLICANS FACE IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. IN ITS EDITORIAL "WE EXPECT RECOVERY OF THE US REPUBLICAN PARTY," YOMIURI WENT ON TO DESCRIBE DANGER THAT REPUBLICAN PARTY MIGHT BECOME "EXCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR UPPER CLASS PEOPLE" AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PARTY WOULD RECOVER TO MAINTAIN US TWO-PARTY SYSTEM.

3. ALL PAPERS NOTED DIVISIVE NATURE OF KANSAS CITY CONVENTION AND WEAKENED STATE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "SCARS LEFT BY US REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION," SANKEI WROTE THAT NOMINATION
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BATTLE HAD "EXPOSED INTERNAL SPLIT OF THE PARTY."

ASAHI EDITORIAL ANALYZED SPLIT, ATTRIBUTING IT TO
CONFLICT BETWEEN "NEWLY-MONEYED PEOPLE IN SOUTH, SOUTHWEST
AND WEST" SUPPORTING GOVERNOR REAGAN AND "MORE
TRADITIONAL" REPUBLICANS IN NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST
SUPPORTING PRESIDENT FORD. ASAHICONCLUDED UNIFICATION OF
REPUBLICANS BY ELECTION DAY WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
SHOESMITH

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